

Message Text

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DOD - CAPTAIN MAY

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY QUITO

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 226647

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, EC, PINS

SUBJECT: NATIONAL DISCLOSURE POLICY FOR ECUADOR

REFS: (A) QUITO 3923; (B) SECDEF 1300042 OF AUGUST 76

1. REFTEL A HAS HAD CONSIDERABLE IMPACT WITHIN THE DEPT OF DEFENSE AND HAS ALREADY AFFECTED SEVERAL GOE-USG ACTIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, THE GOE'S REQUEST FOR A BRIEFING ON THE HAWK MISSILE SYSTEM HAS BEEN DENIED; A LONG-AWAITED TRANSFER OF NATO TACTICAL PUBLICATIONS HAS BEEN DEFERRED AND MAY POSSIBLY BE CANCELLED; AND A DECISION ON PROVIDING PLANNING AND BUDGETING DATA ON C-47 CONVERSION KITS IS BEING HELD IN ABEYANCE.

2. IN THE FUTURE, THE ESTIMATE OF ECUADOREAN INABILITY TO HANDLE CLASSIFIED MATERIAL CONTAINED IN REFTEL A COULD ADVERSELY AFFECT DECISIONS TO PROVIDE 5/38 VARIABLE TTME FUSES, INFORMATION ON HARPOON/STANDARD MISSILES, NEW AIR DEFENSE SYSTEMS AND POSSIBLY EVEN SOME SHIP TRANSFERS.

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3. A MEETING OF THE NATIONAL MILITARY INFORMATION DISCLO-

SURE POLICY COMMITTEE (NDPC) HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 23 TO ASSESS THE RAMIFICATIONS OF REFTEL A ON CURRENT DISCLOSURE POLICY AND EXISTING PROGRAMS. UNTIL

AN NDPC DECISION IS MADE, DISCLOSURE OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION TO ECUADOR WILL BE HANDLED AS FOLLOWS:

- A. AN ATTEMPT WILL BE MADE TO HOLD ALL DISCLOSURE ACTIONS IN ABEYANCE.
- B. COMMITMENTS THAT CANNOT BE HELD UP BECAUSE OF POSSIBLE ADVERSE IMPACTS ON OUR FOREIGN RELATIONS WILL BE OBSERVED.
- C. NO NEW DISCLOSURE ACTIONS WILL BE INITIATED.

4. STATE AND DEFENSE ARE AGREED THAT IF THE GOE'S SECURITY PROCEDURES ARE AS BAD AS PAINTED IN REFTEL A, THE GOE SHOULD BE MADE AWARE OF THIS FACT, AND THE RAMIFICATIONS OF THE POOR SECURITY PROCEDURES SHOULD BE EXPLAINED. IN ORDER NOT TO JEOPARDIZE OUR CONTINUING TRANSFERS OF CLASSIFIED MATERIAL, THE GOE SHOULD BE URGED TO TAKE EVERY STEP TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION ON AN URGENT BASIS. FURTHER, ANY COMMENTS YOU CAN MAKE IN AMPLIFICATION OF REFTEL A THAT WILL BE HELPFUL FOR THE NDPC MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 23 WILL BE APPRECIATED. ROBINSON

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